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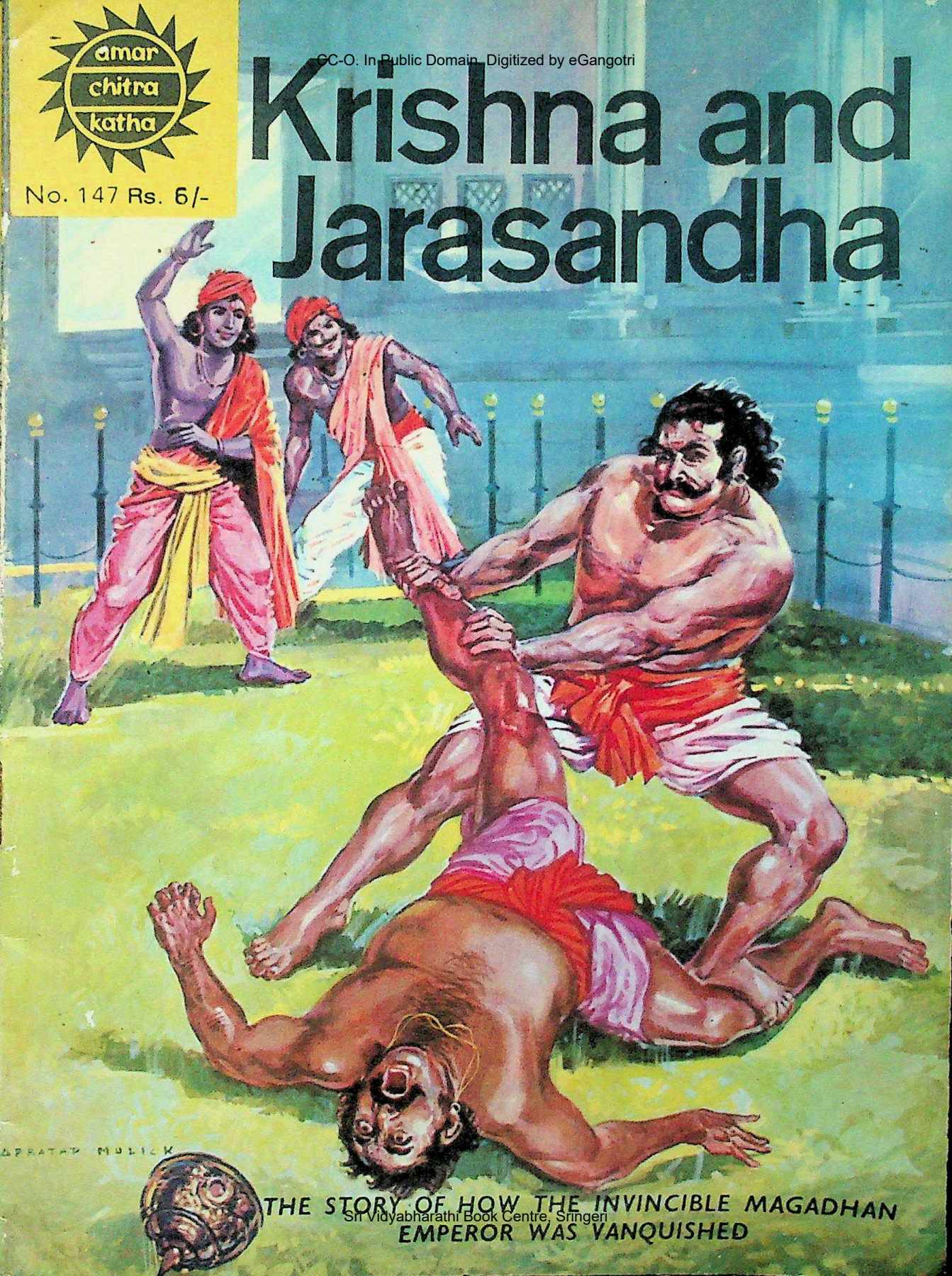
Krishna and Jarasandha



THE STORY OF HOW THE INVINCIBLE MAGADHAN EMPEROR WAS VANQUISHED

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Jarasandha was the emperor of Aryavarta (north India) at the time the Pandavas were ruling at Indraprastha. Most of the kings of North India acknowledged his suzerainty out of fear. Many of those who did not, had been imprisoned by him. To establish the supremacy of the Pandavas it was necessary to subdue Jarasandha.

Though Jarasandha was considered invincible, he had a vital flaw and Krishna knew this. Jarasandha was the split-personality, in a purely physical sense. He was born split and it was the (black) magical touch of a sorceress that joined the two halves to complete the man. This joint was at once the source of his strength and his weakness.

Mighty men of mythology, be they of the East, or of the West, were always characterised by a vital flaw which in reverse, would turn out to be a vital asset. Karna's Kavacha (armour) and Achilles' Heels are classic examples. The secret of the heroes' strength often remained locked in this dual nature of their gifts. Only one who knew the secret could vanquish them. Jarasandha's weak point was known only to Krishna. How he brings about the fall of the mighty and evil emperor is narrated in this Amar Chitra Katha, based on the Bhagawat Purana and the Mahabharata.

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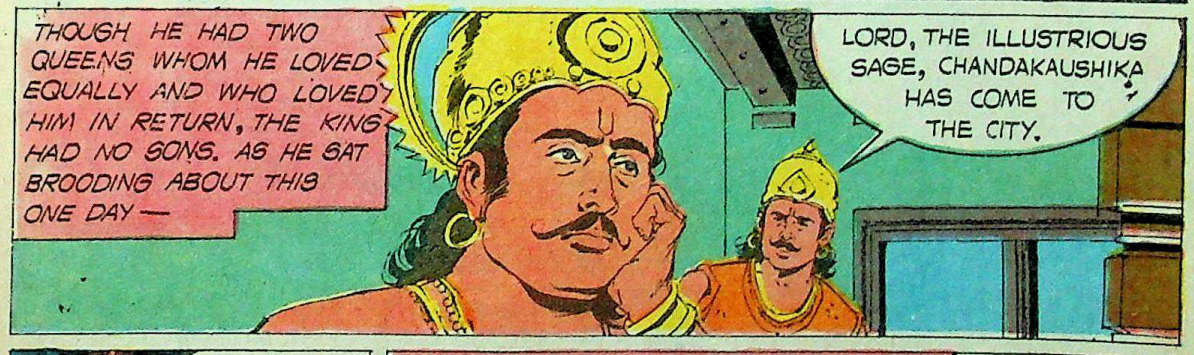
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

LONG, LONG AGO, THE HANDSOME, WEALTHY AND POWERFUL KING BRIHADRATHA RULED OVER MAGADHA. HE WAS MARRIED TO THE BEAUTIFUL TWIN DAUGHTERS OF THE KING OF KASHI.



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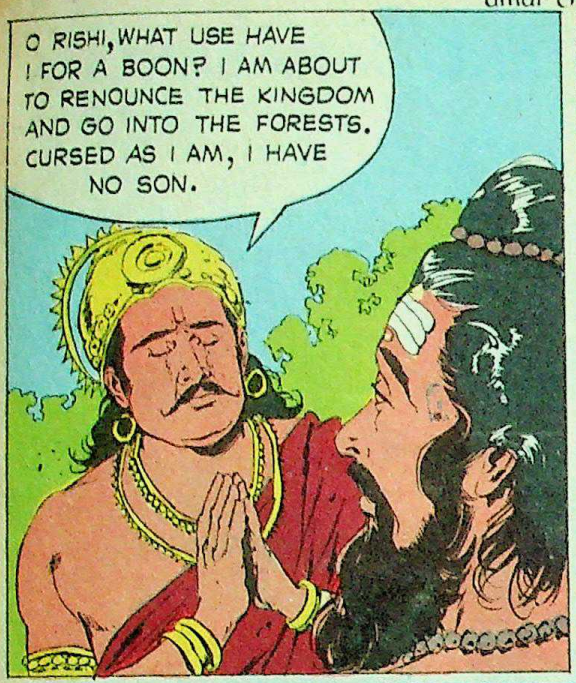

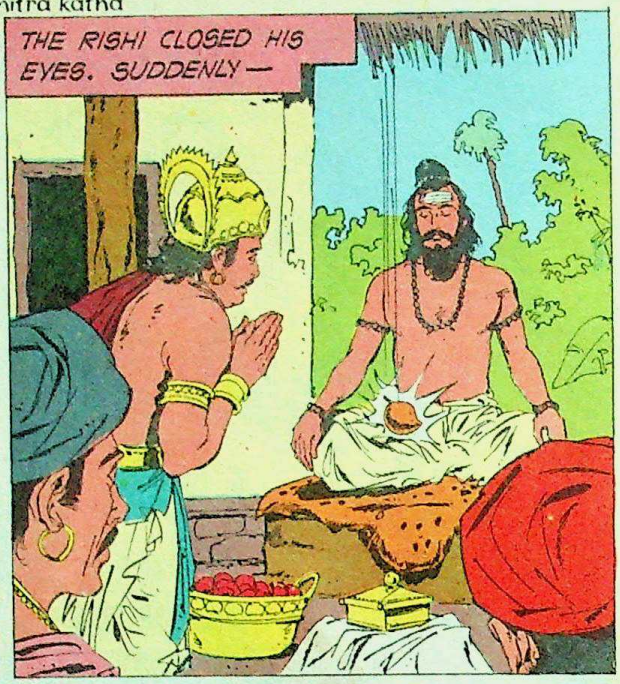

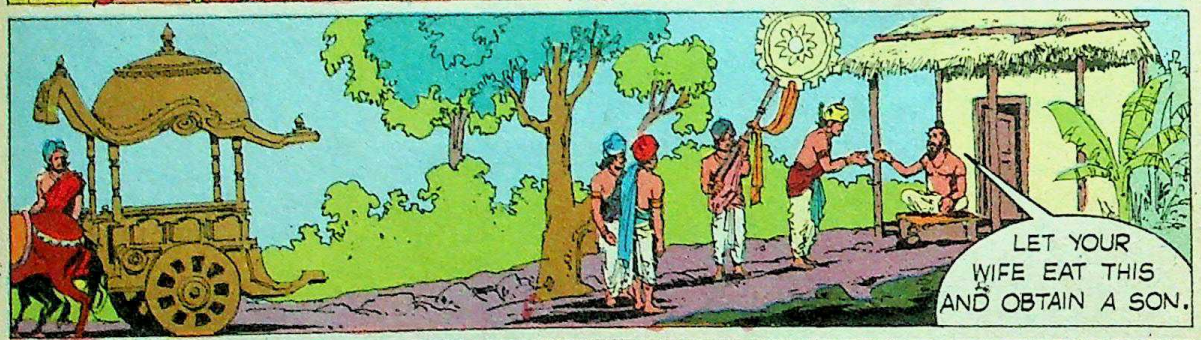

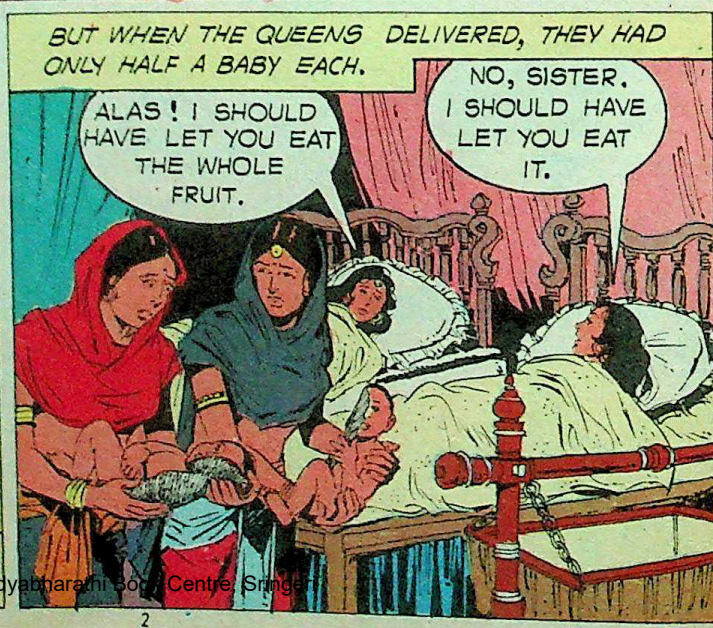

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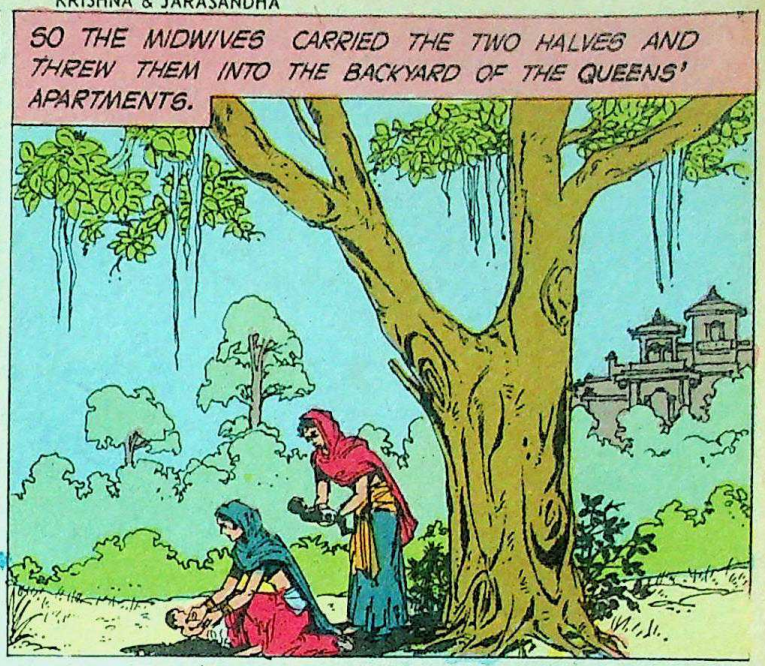

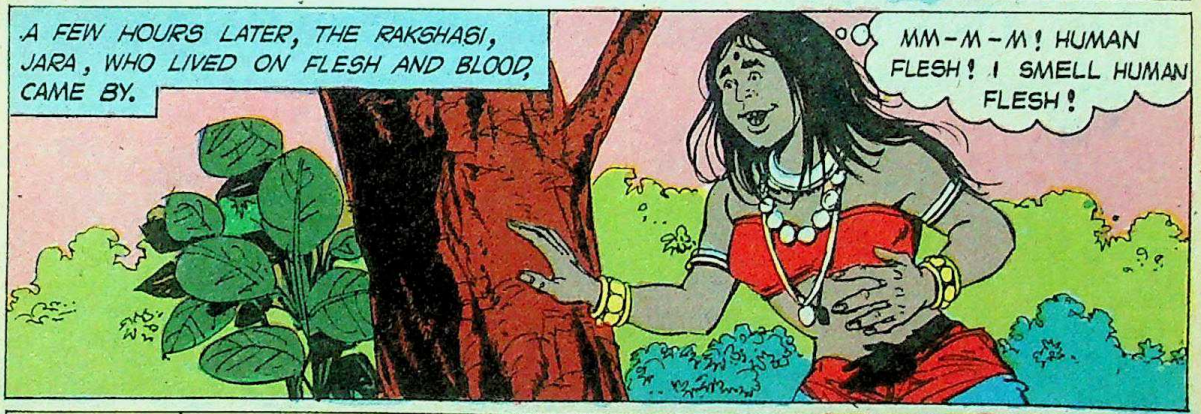

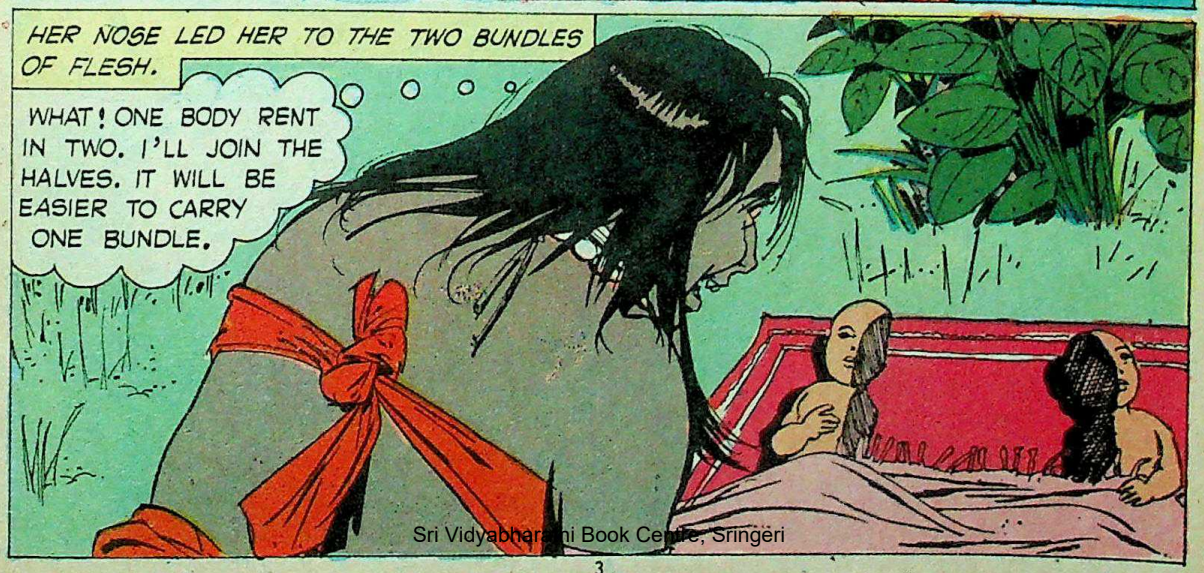

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* THE SON OF UGRASENA, KING OF MATHURA

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BUT KAMSA WAS AN EVIL KING. HE DEPOSED HIS FATHER AND PERSECUTED HIS OWN SUBJECTS.

WITH THE MIGHTY JARASANDHA AS MY FATHER-IN-LAW, I NEED FEAR NONE. NONE, EXCEPT MY NEPHEW, KRISHNA.

BEFORE KRISHNA WAS BORN, IT HAD BEEN PROPHESIED THAT HE WOULD KILL THE EVIL KAMSA.

FATE AND THE GODS CONSPIRED AGAINST ME AND FOILED MY ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE CHILD.

THEY SAY, HE IS LIVING AMONG THE GOPAS* OF BRINDAVAN WITH HIS BROTHER BALARAMA. I SHALL INVITE HIM TO MATHURA AND KILL HIM.

BUT AT THE FATED HOUR, IT WAS KAMSA WHO MET WITH HIS END AT KRISHNA'S HANDS.

UGRASENA WAS RESTORED TO THE THRONE. WHILE ALL MATHURA REJOICED...

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* COWHERDS

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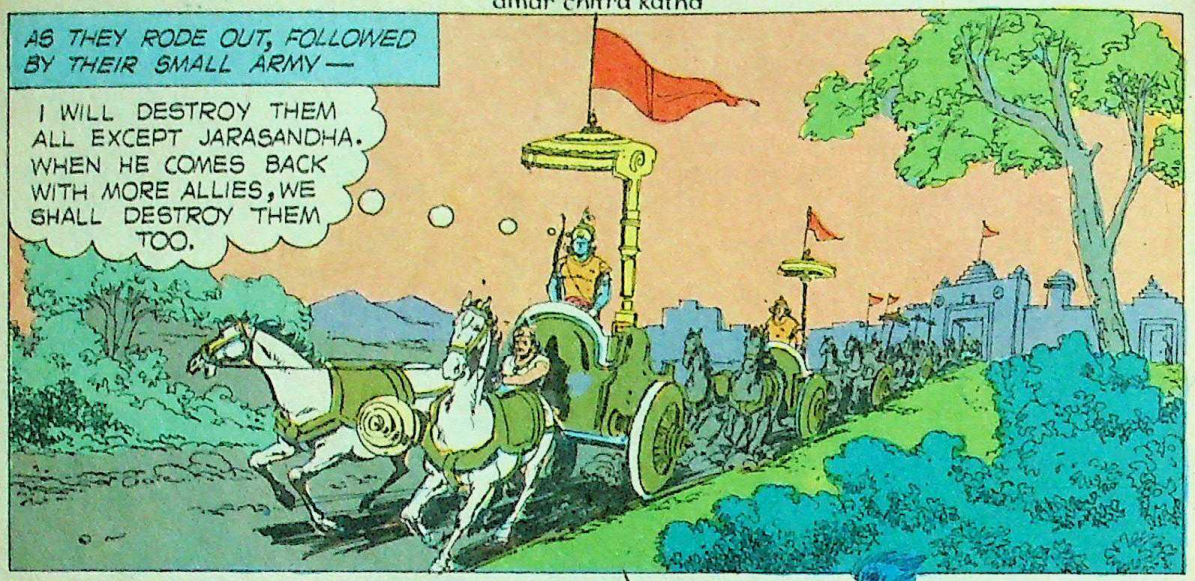

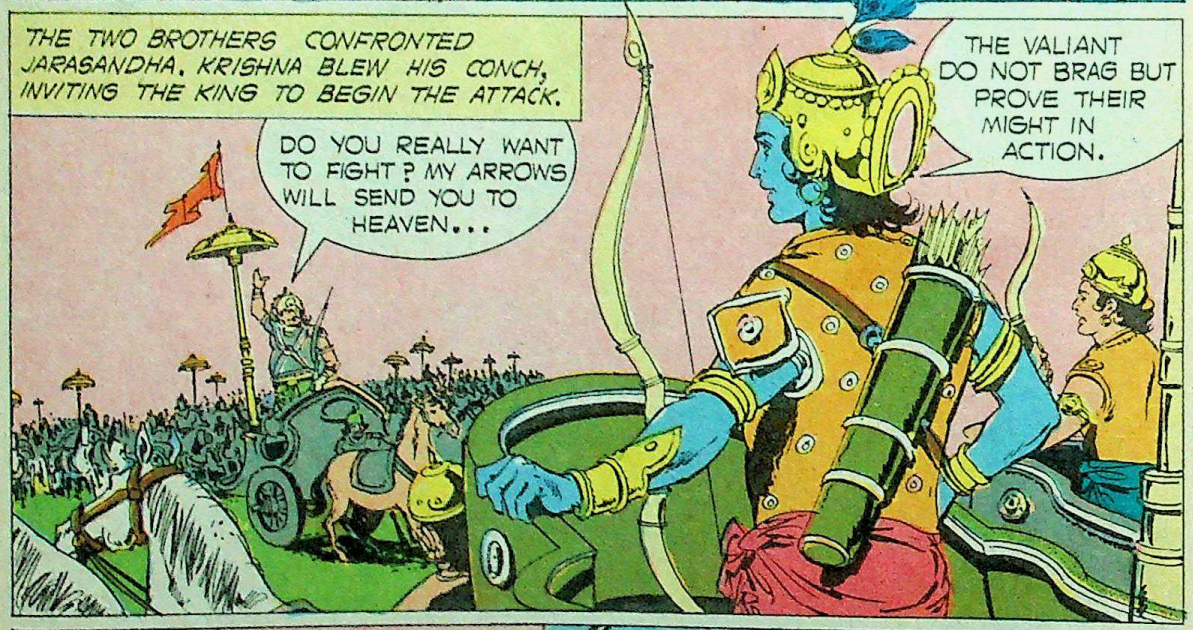

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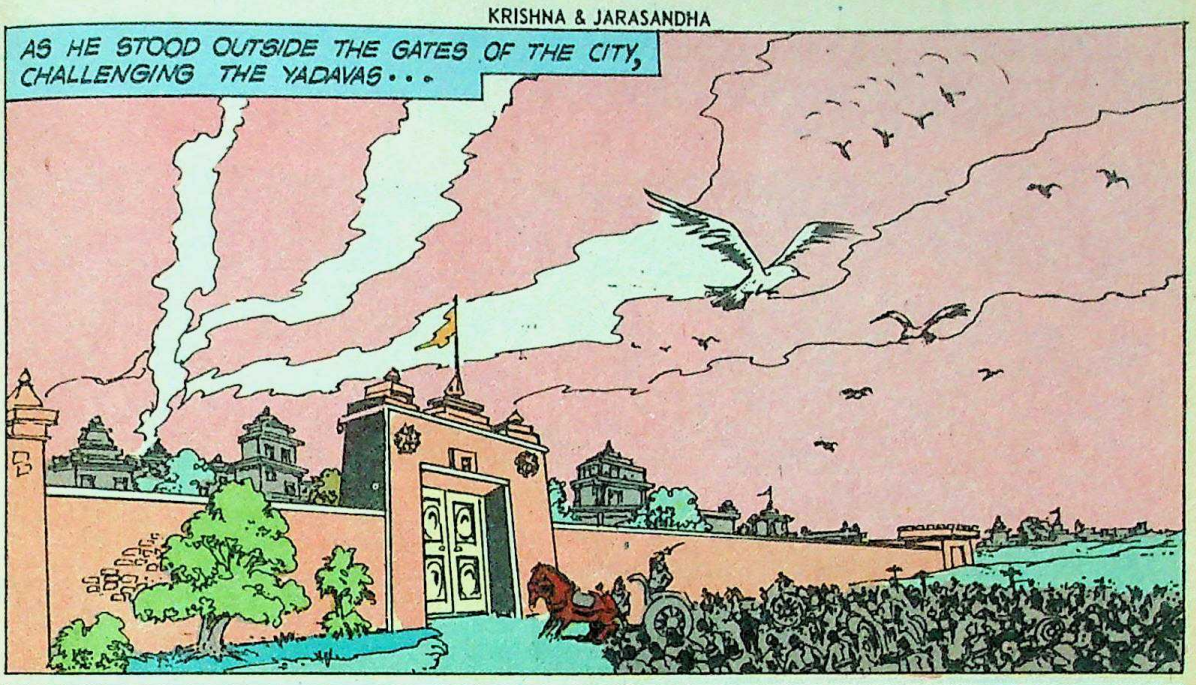

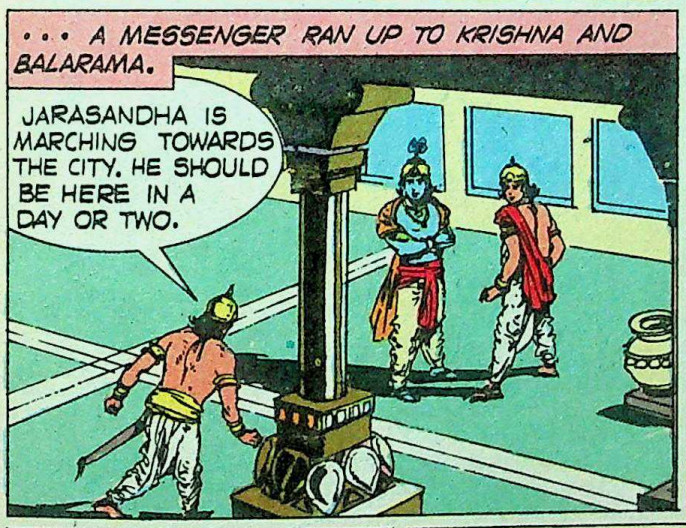

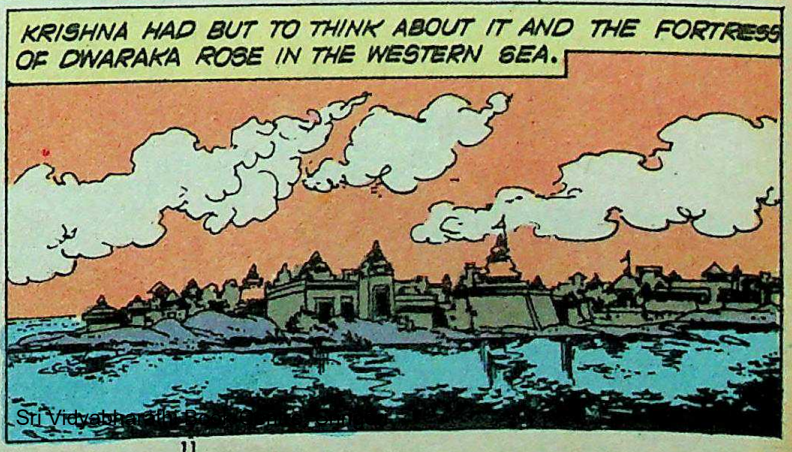

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USING HIS YOGIC POWER, KRISHNA TRANSPORTED THE PEOPLE, THE CATTLE AND THE WEALTH OF MATHURA TO DWARAKA.

THEN, ALONG WITH BALARAMA AND A SMALL ARMY OF YADAVAS WHO CHOSE TO STAY AND FIGHT, HE CAME OUT OF THE CITY GATES, UNARMED AND ON FOOT.

WHILE BALARAMA AND THE ARMY MADE STRAIGHT FOR THE YAVANA HORDES...

...ASSUMING HIS DIVINE *FORM, KRISHNA WALKED TOWARDS KALAYAVANA.

THIS IS THE YADAVA, JUST AS NARADA DESCRIBED HIM. I TOO SHALL DISMOUNT AND ATTACK HIM, UNARMED.

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* KRISHNA BEING AN INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU

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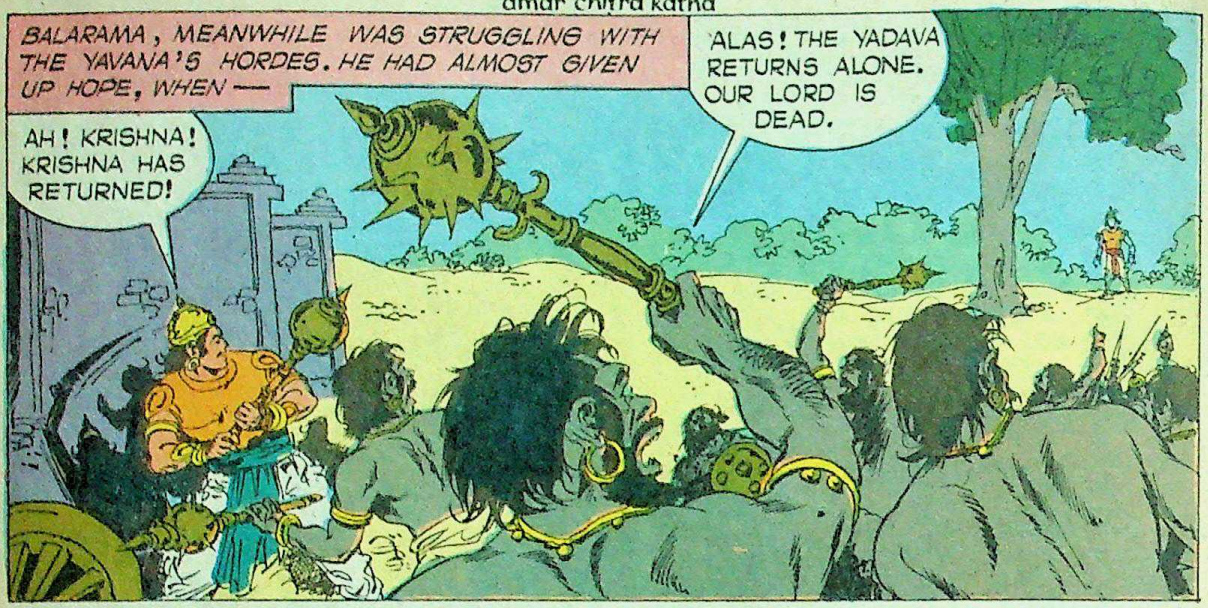

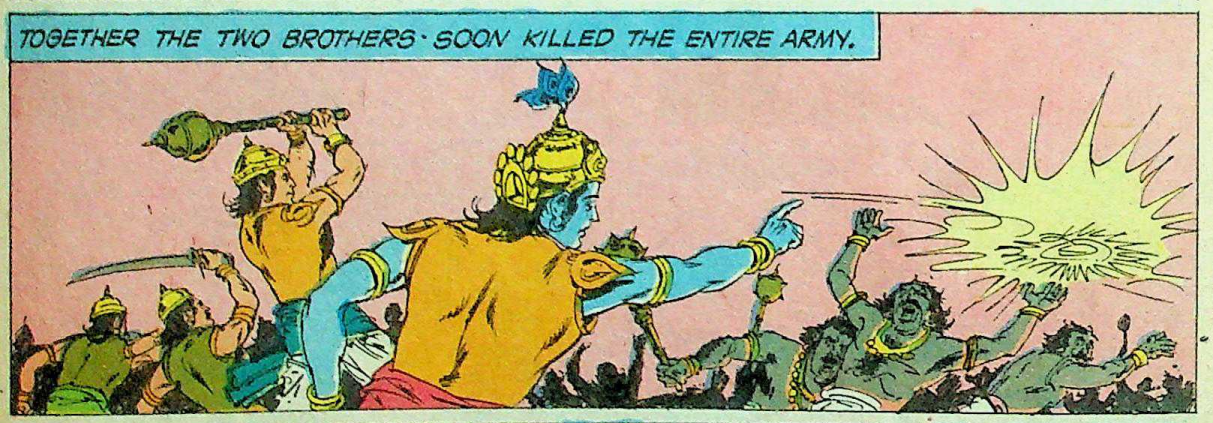

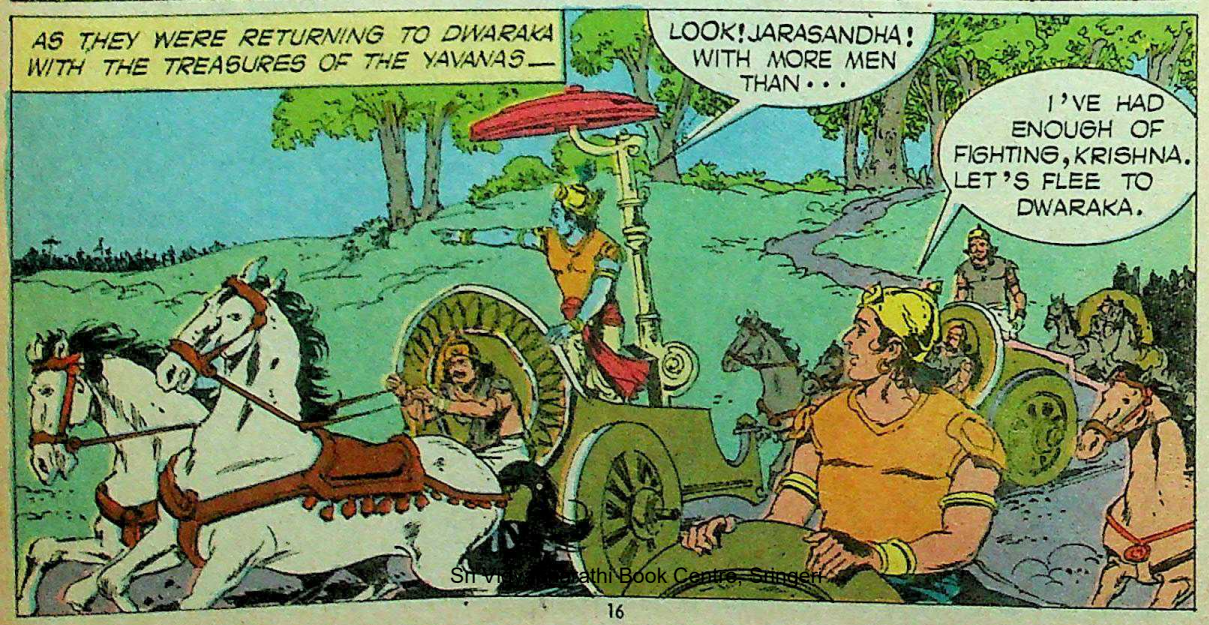

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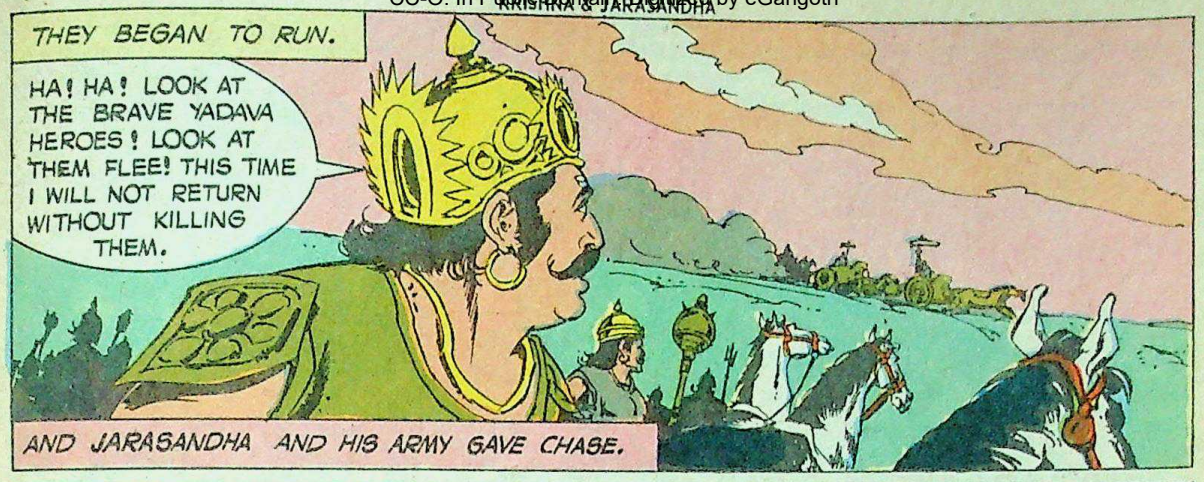

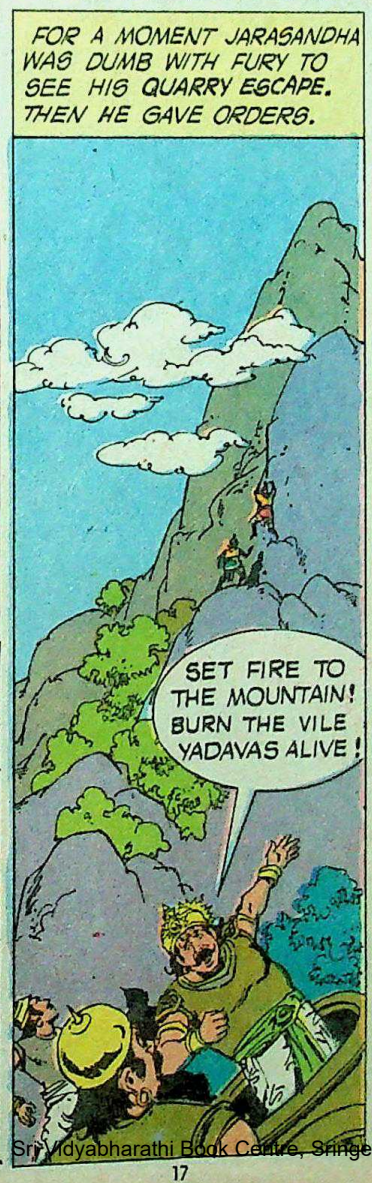

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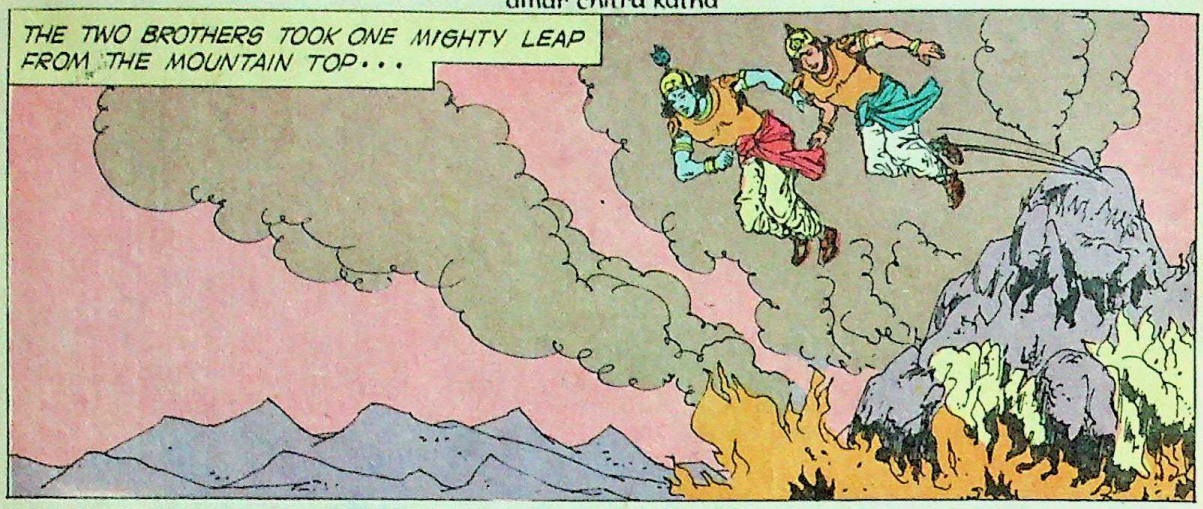

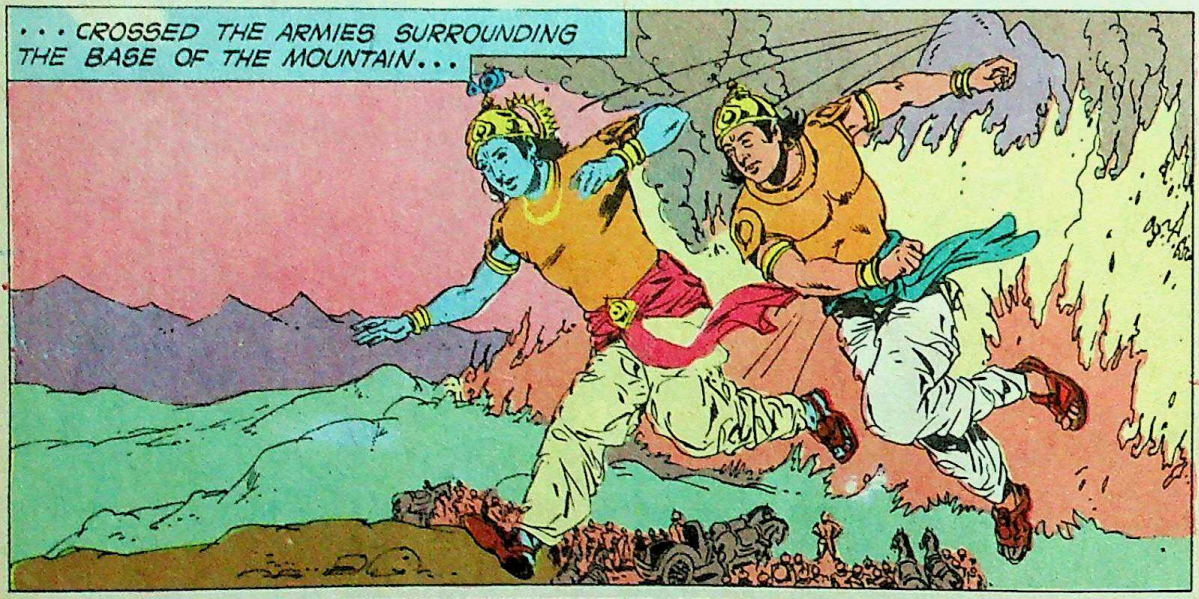

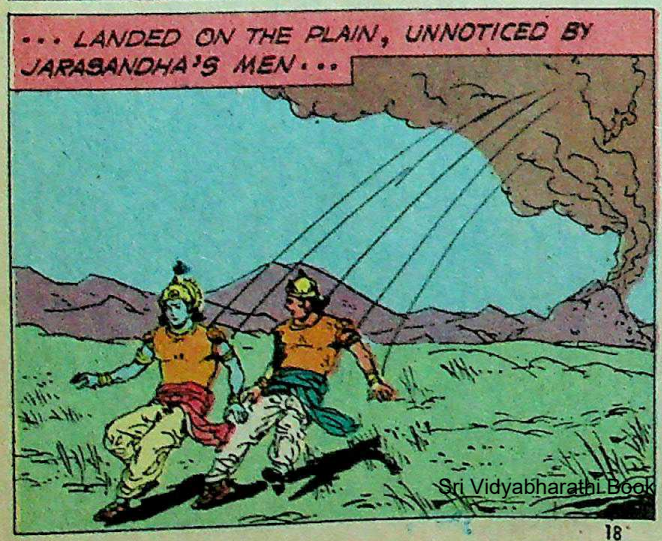

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MEANWHILE, KRISHNA'S COUSINS, THE PANDAVAS, HAD JUST ACQUIRED THE KINGDOM OF INDRAPRASTHA. EVERYONE WAS ANXIOUS FOR YUDHISHTHIRA TO PERFORM THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE.

DO NOT DELAY, O KING. PERFORM THE SACRIFICE AND BECOME LORD OF THE EARTH.

TO PERFORM THE RAJASUYA IS THE PRIVILEGE OF AN EMPEROR. AND SO JARASANDHA WILL HAVE TO BE DEFEATED. LET ME CONSULT KRISHNA ON THIS.

WHEN KRISHNA CAME AND YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED HIM HIS OPINION —

TO PERFORM THE RAJASUYA YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL JARASANDHA AND RELEASE THE KINGS IMPRISONED BY HIM.

SINCE EVEN YOU WERE ALARMED BY HIS MIGHT, HOW CAN I EVER HOPE TO KILL HIM?

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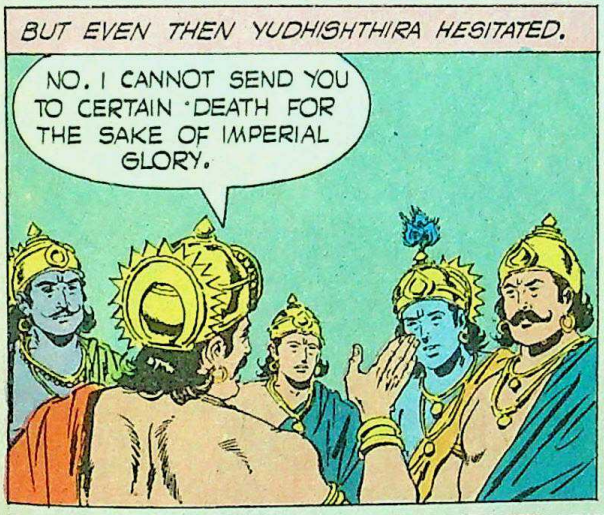

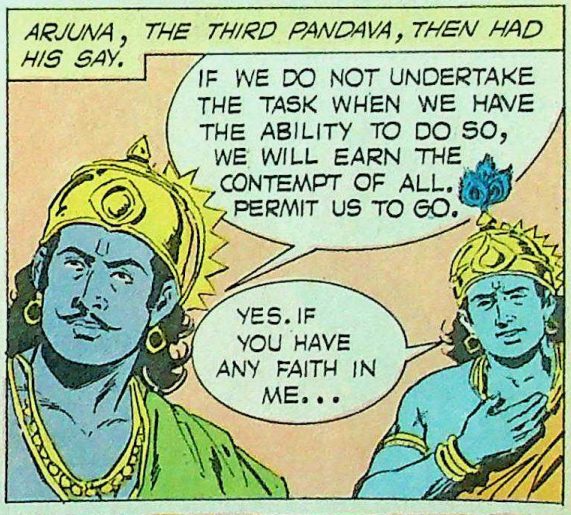

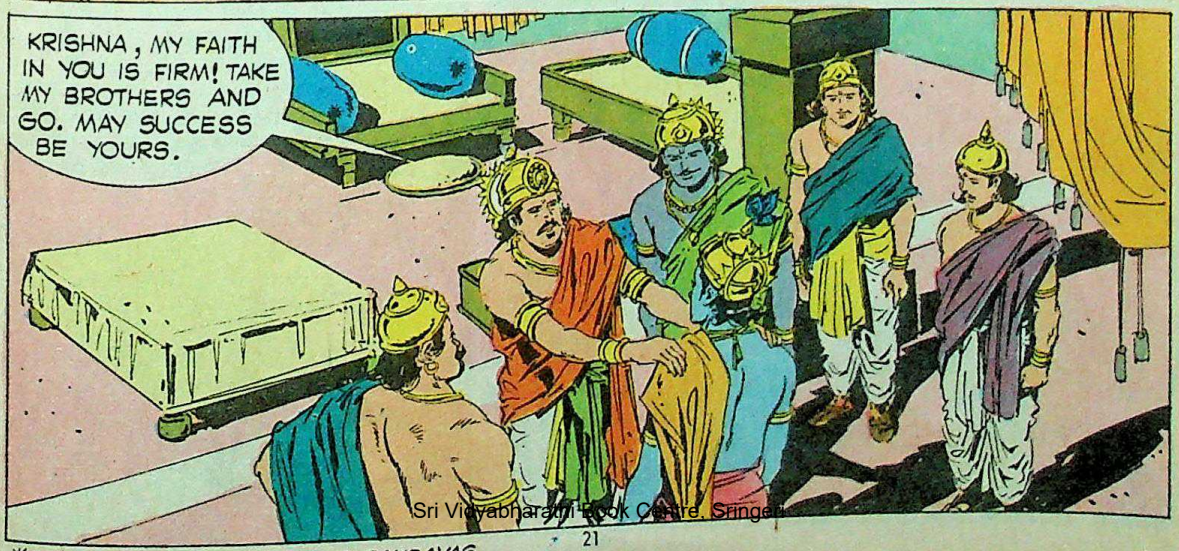

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* THE SECOND OF THE FIVE PANDAVAS.

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HAVING RECEIVED YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND BLESSINGS, KRISHNA, ARJUNA, AND BHEEMA SET OUT FOR MAGADHA, DISGUISED AS BRAHMANS.

THEY REACHED JARASANDHA'S PALACE AT THE HOUR WHEN HE ENTERTAINED PETITIONS.

O KING, WE HAVE COME FROM AFAR FOR A DEFINITE PURPOSE. SO PLEASE SAY YOU WILL GRANT US OUR REQUEST.

JARASANDHA, HOWEVER, WAS NOT WHOLLY TAKEN IN.

THEIR BEARING... THOSE SCARRED FOREARMS... THEY ARE NO BRAHMANS. I THINK I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE.

THEY HAVE COME DISGUISED, OUT OF FEAR OF ME. SINCE THEY HAVE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO COME HERE, I WILL GRANT THEM WHATEVER THEY ASK OF ME.

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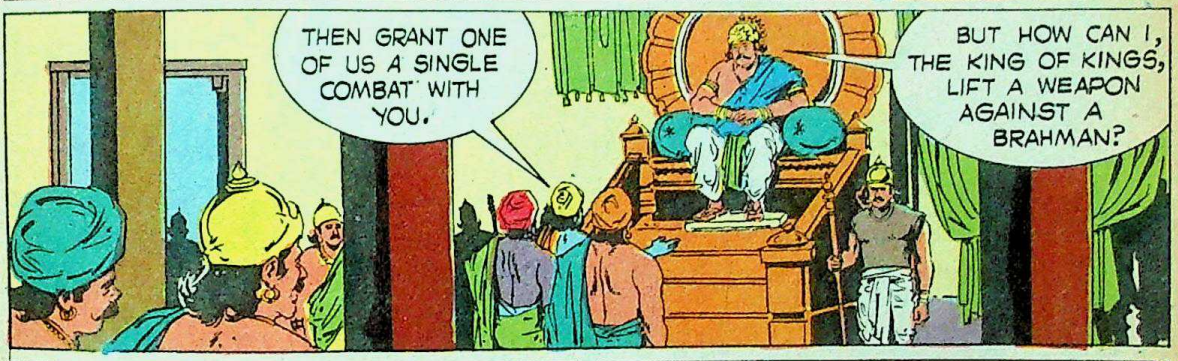

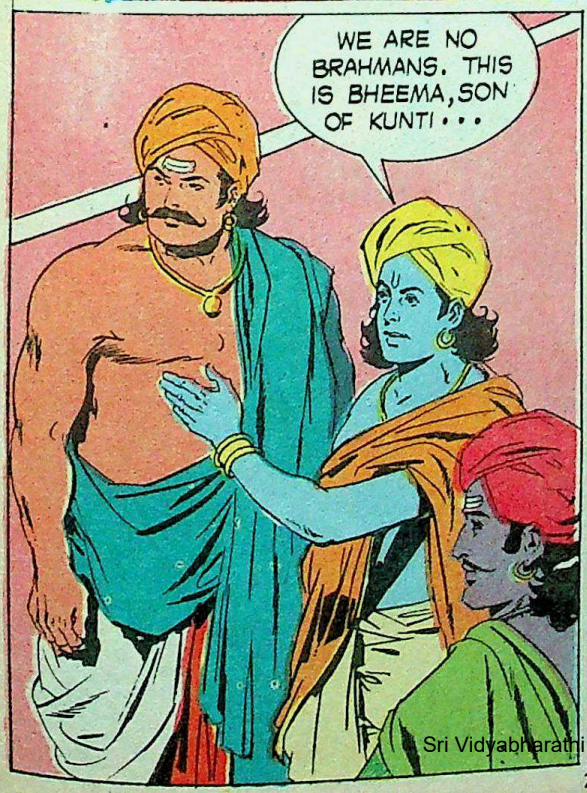

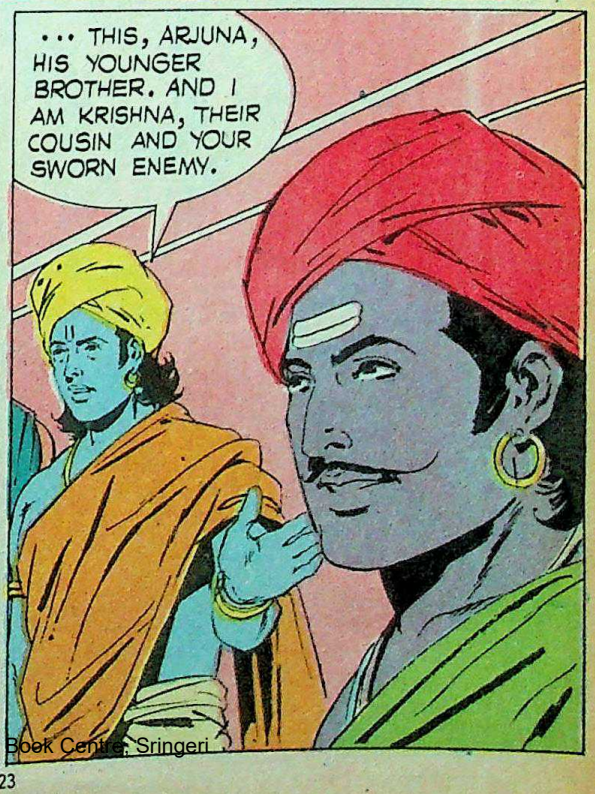

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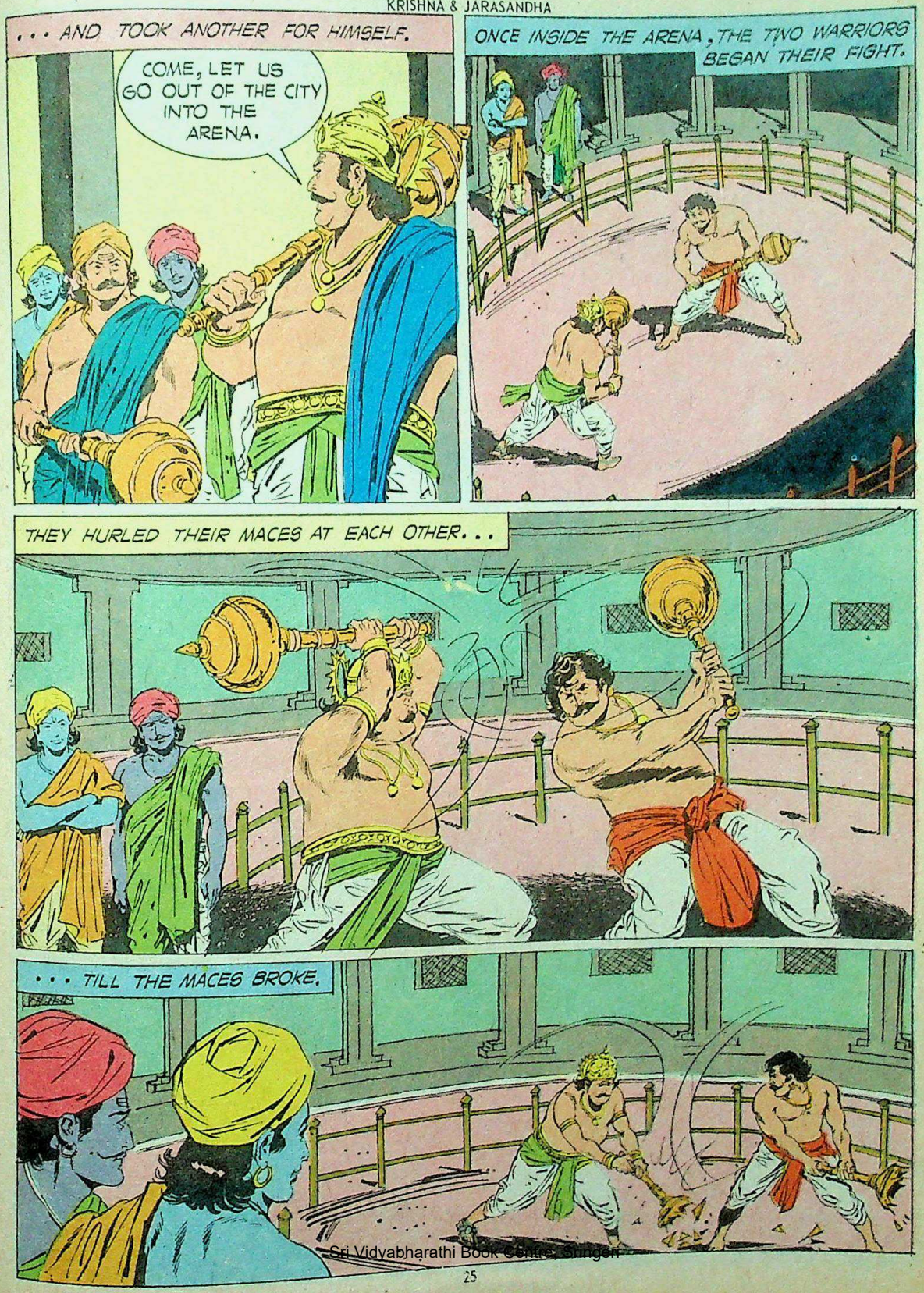

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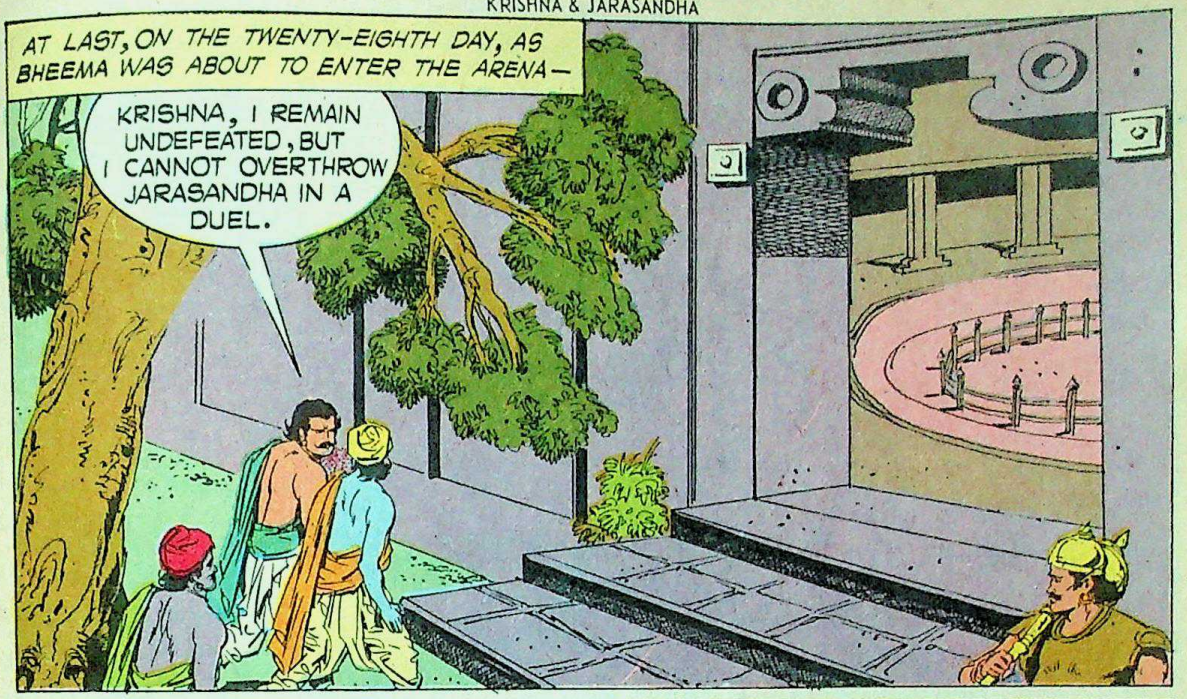

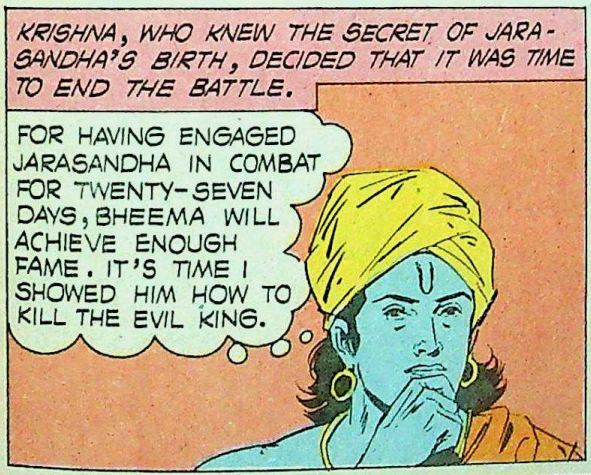

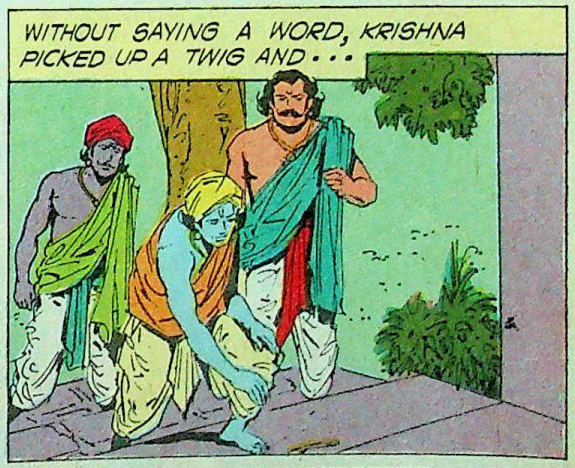

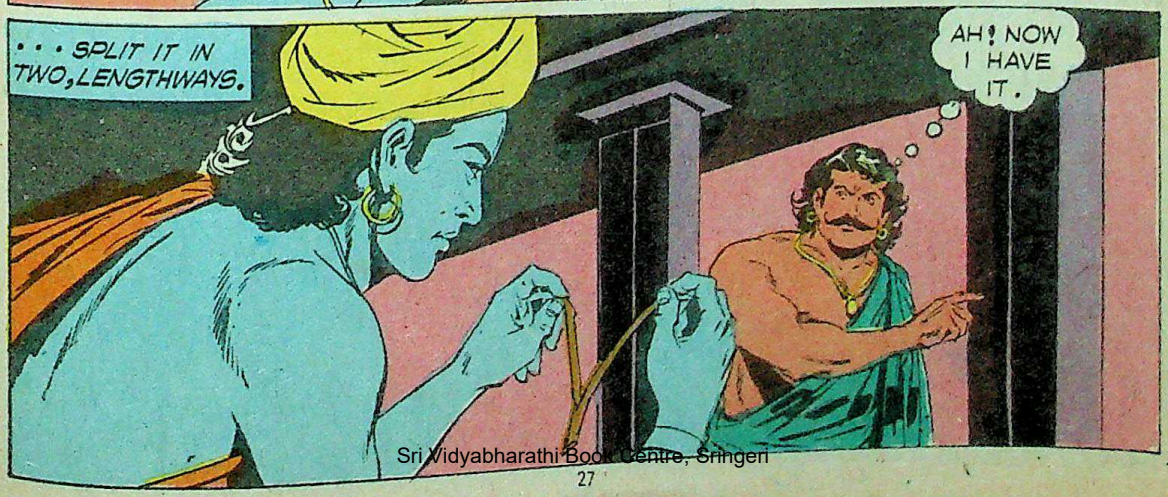

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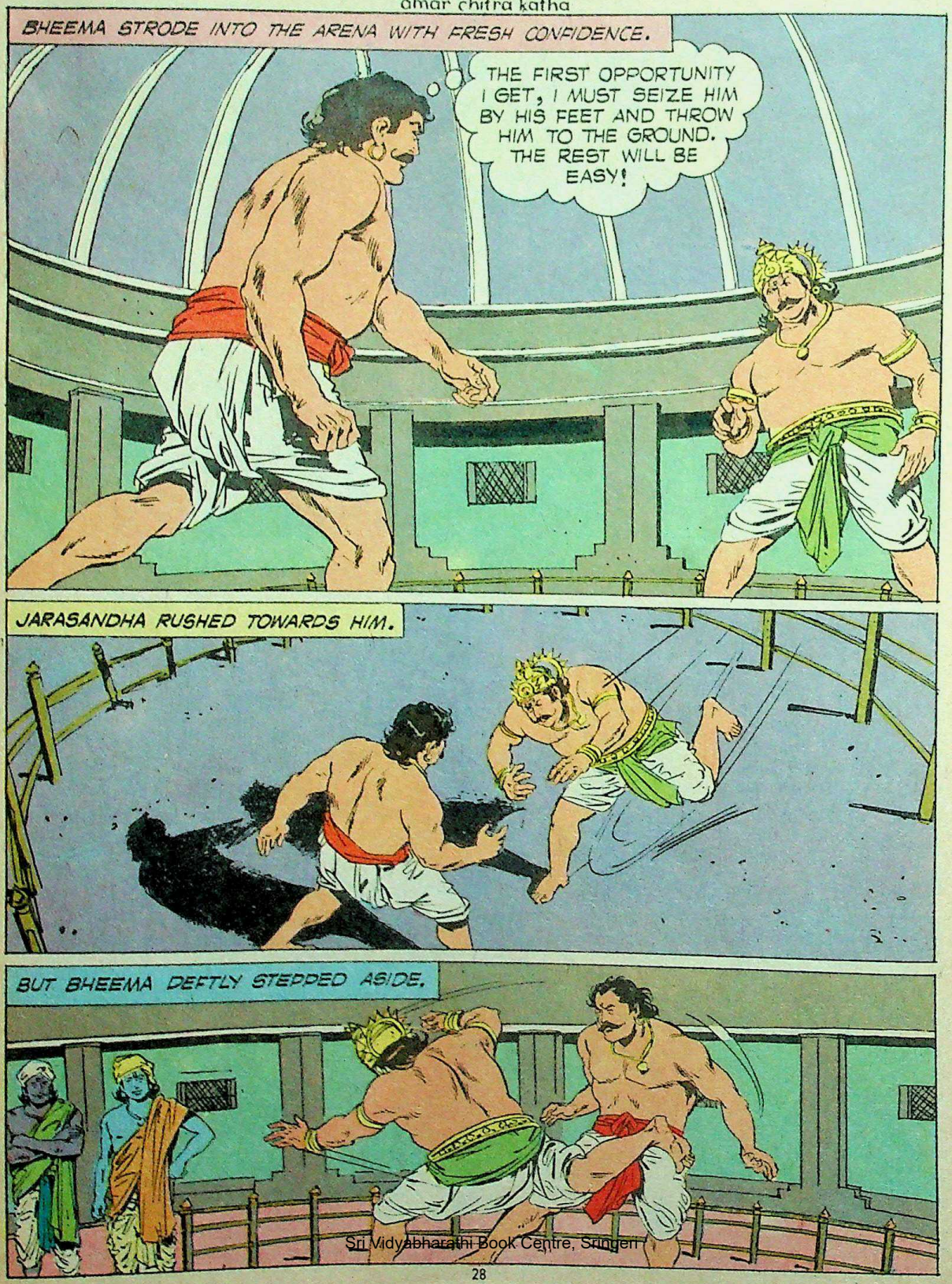

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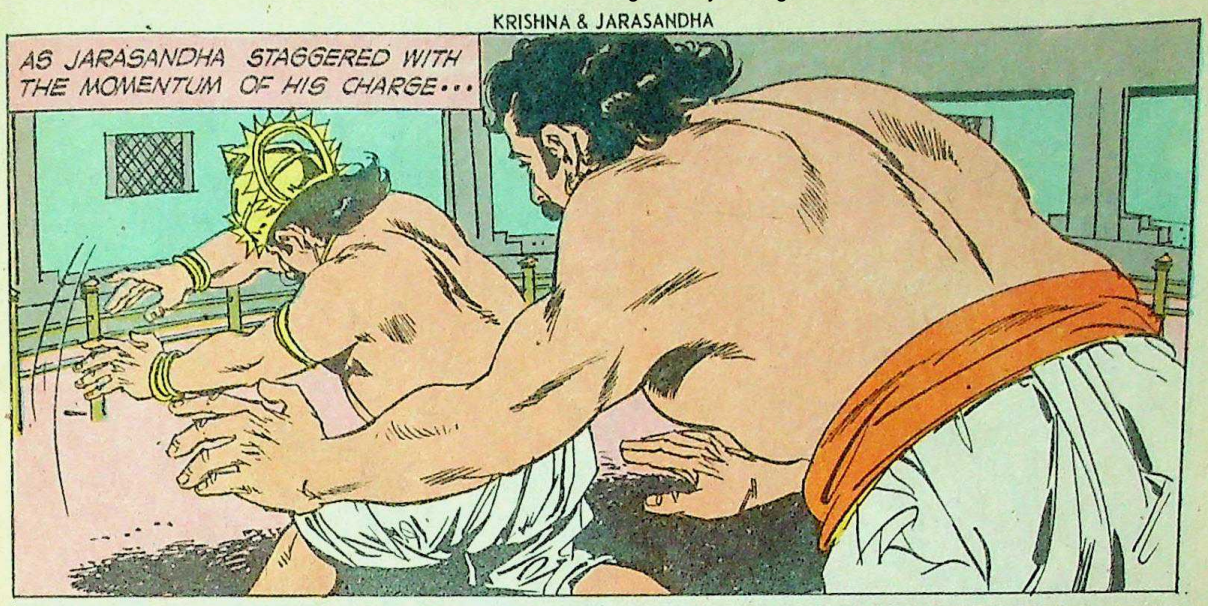

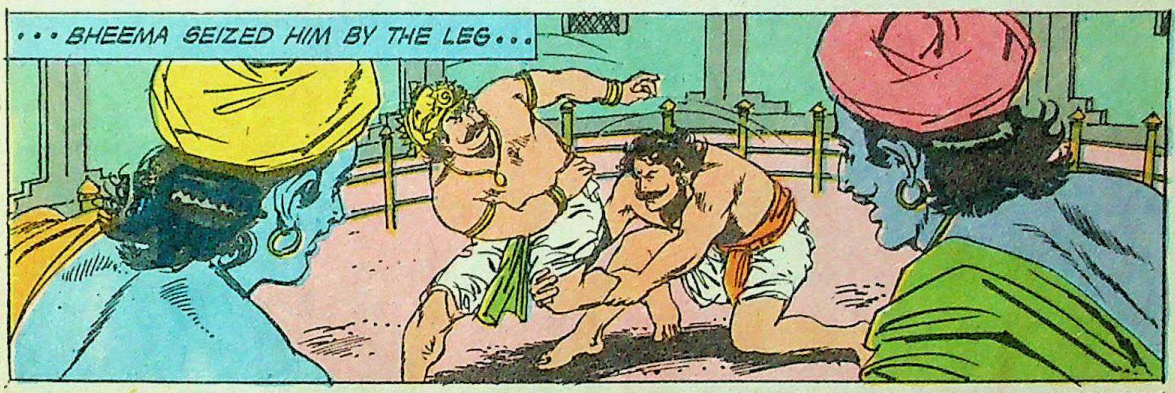

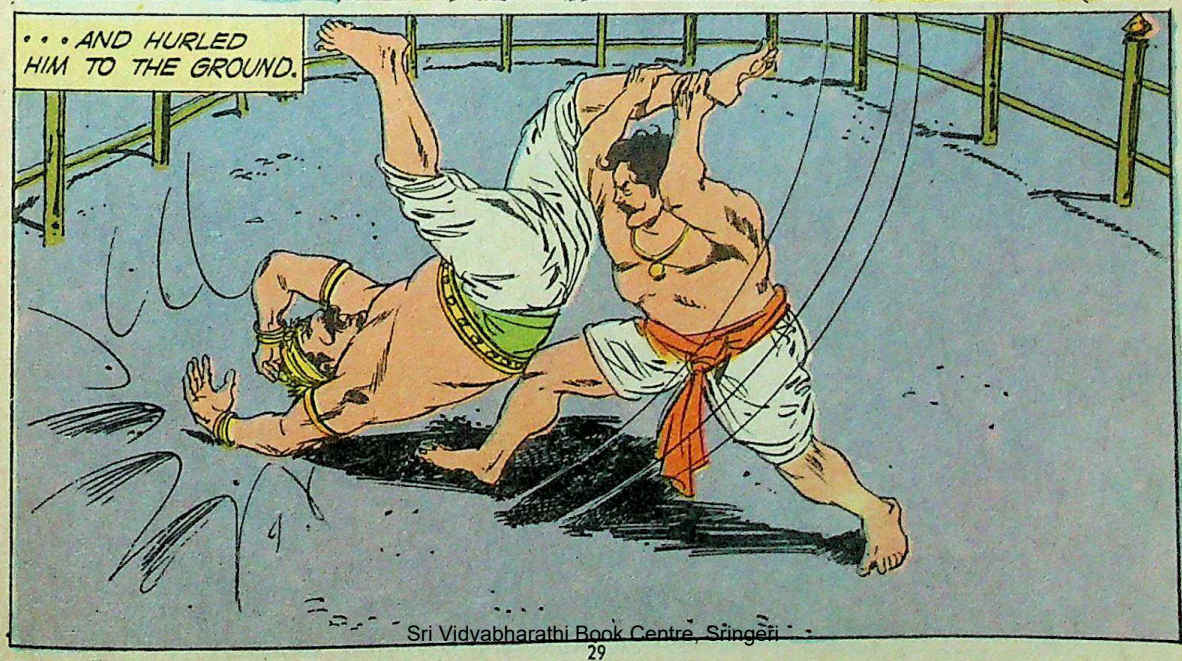

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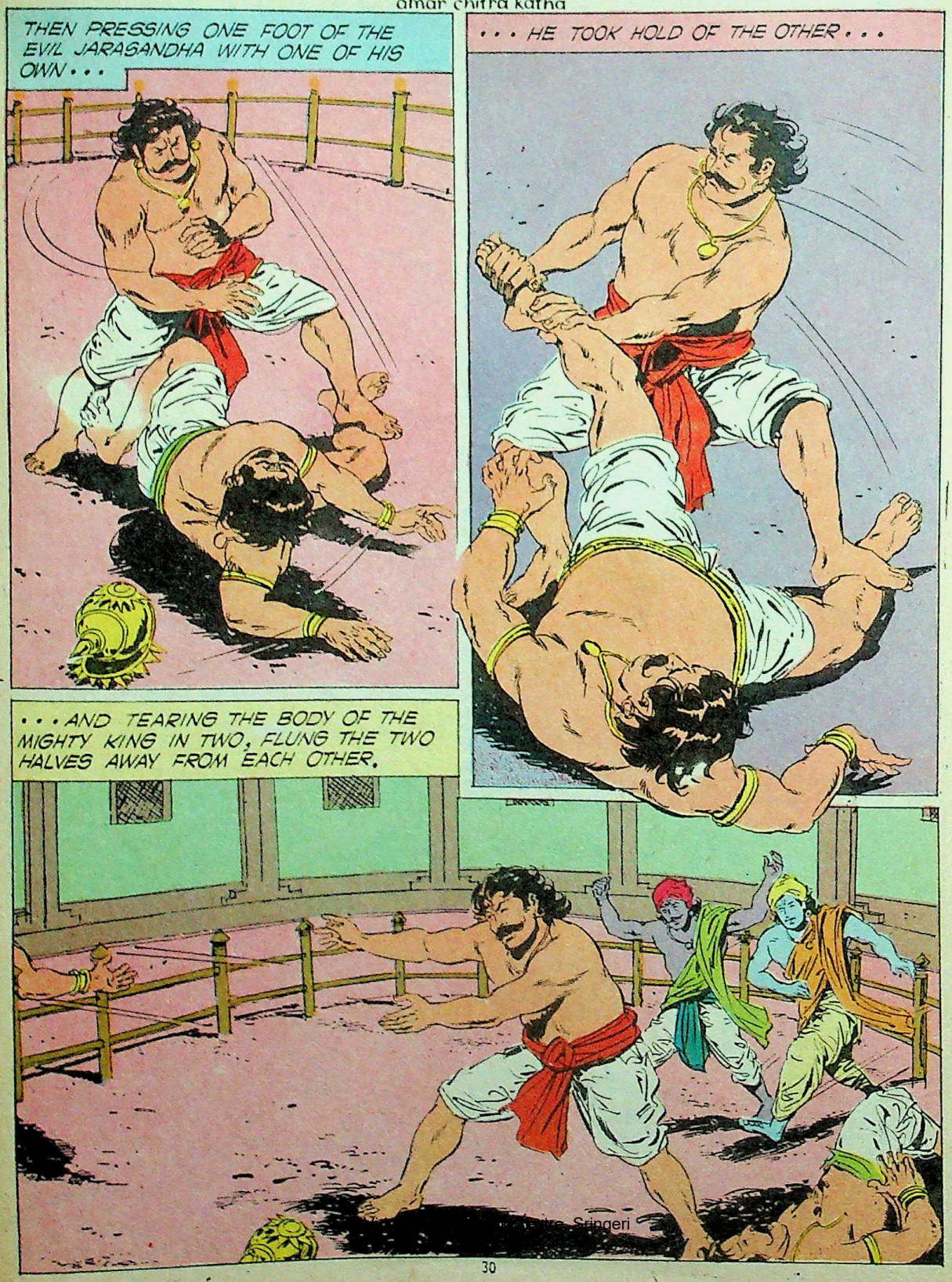

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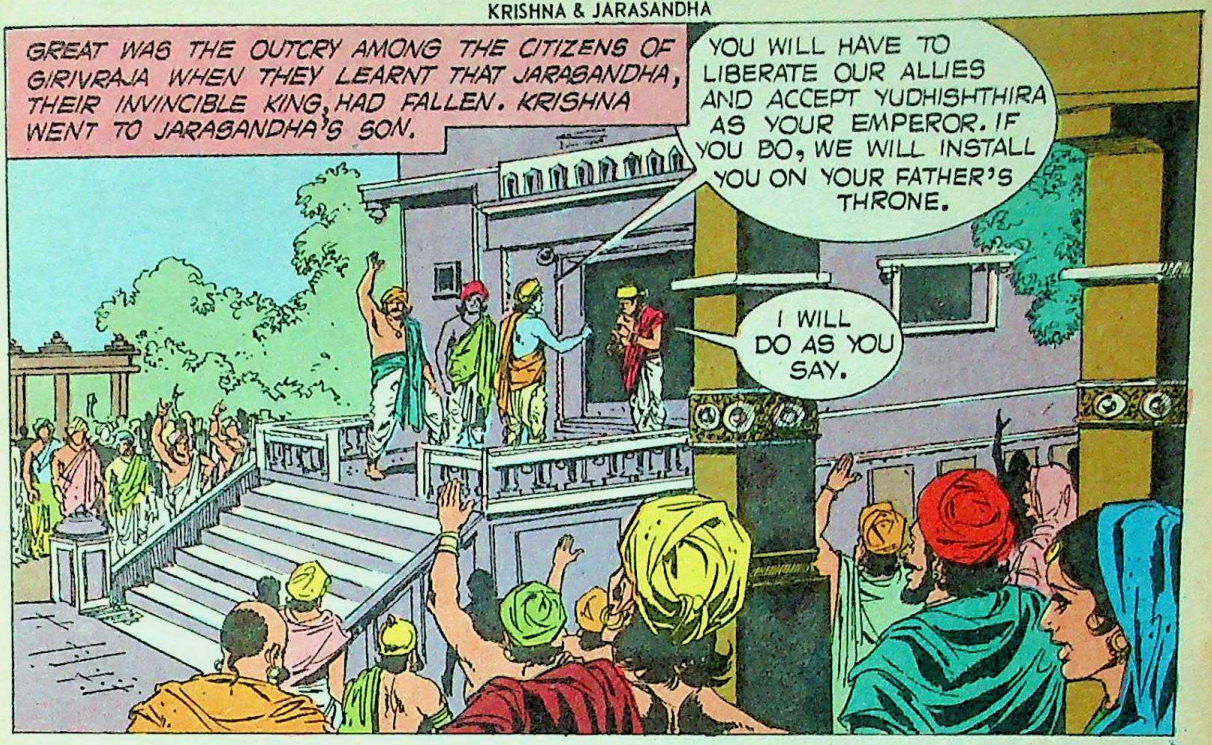

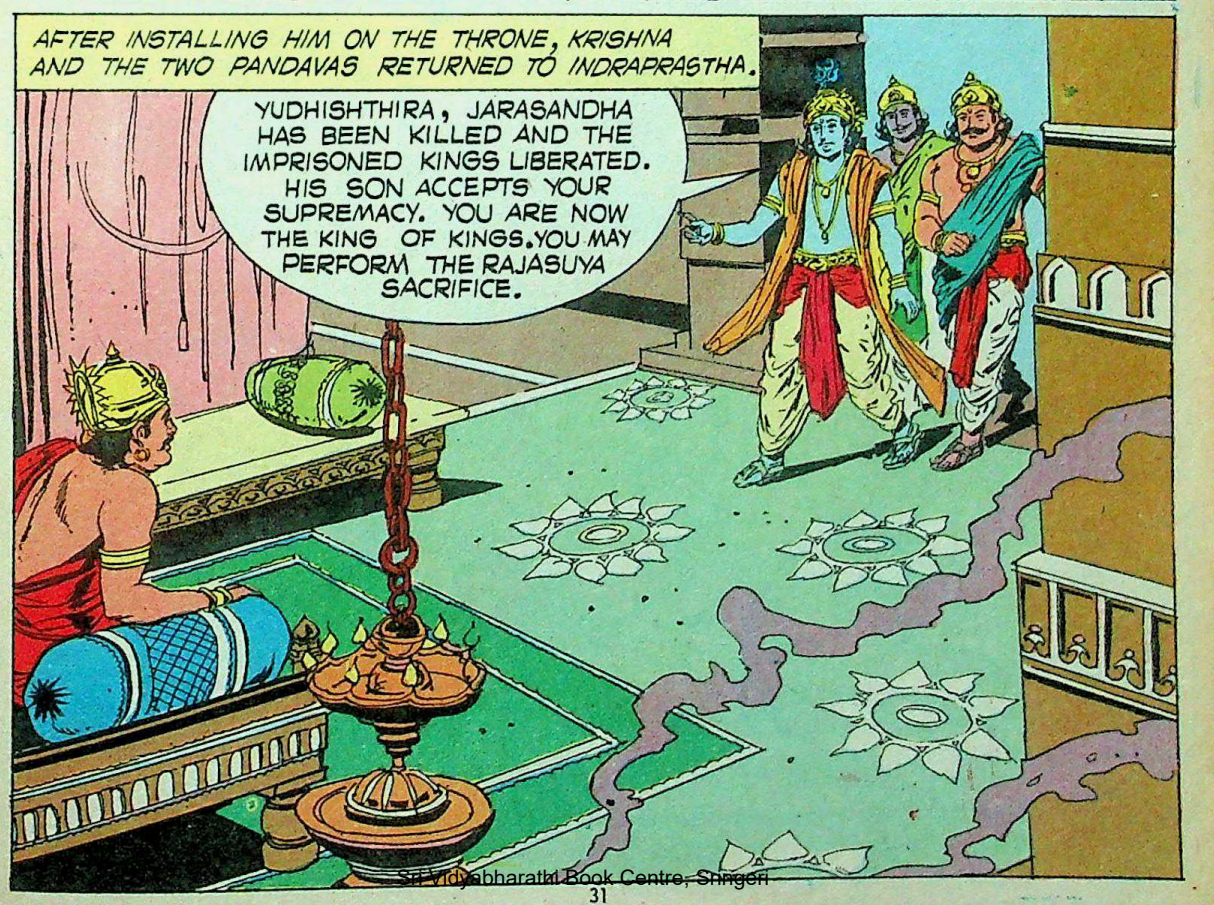

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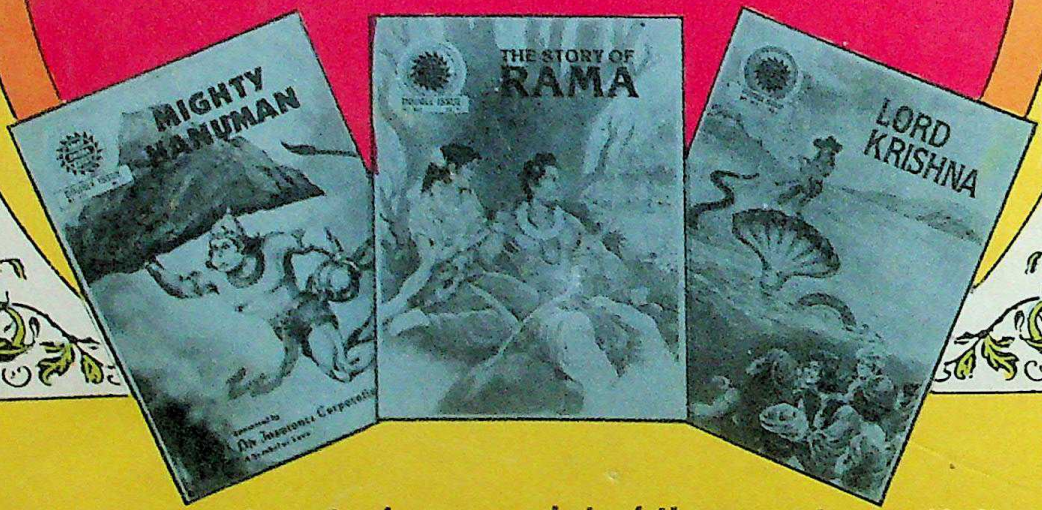

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